

(B) Bequest Forms for the "Los Angeles County Physicians' Aid Association"

Excerpts from By-Laws of Aid Association of Los Angeles County Medical Association follows:

ARTICLE XI

Forms of Bequest

Section 1. Form of a Devise.

I, _____ of _____ do hereby devise and bequeath to the Los Angeles County Physicians' Aid Association, their successors and assigns, all that—
(Here recite the real estate from the deed)

Section 2. Form of a Donation or Bequest.

I, _____ of _____ hereby give and bequeath unto the Los Angeles County Physicians' Aid Association the sum of—

Note—By the laws of California all bequests of a charitable character must be made at least one calendar month before the death of the donor, and the will must be attested by two disinterested witnesses.

WHY DID P.T.A. SUPPORT COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE?*

Misguided efforts to lift the lid on the Pandora's box of state medicine have too frequently been abetted by sincere, worthwhile organizations. More than one prominent group laudably interested in better health care, but unaware of the many dangers to sound medical progress involved, has succumbed to glib suggestions that compulsory health insurance is the panacea for all ills.

A case in point is the California Congress of Parents and Teachers. No California organization has a more distinguished record of solid achievement in its own field. No one questions its wisdom, its competence or its high aims in striving for educational progress. But Parent-Teacher advocacy of compulsory health insurance at the 1945 Legislature marked a radical change in P.T.A. program, something foreign to its traditional purposes.

It is obvious that the P.T.A. must concern itself with the health of California's school children. Its success in meeting this responsibility is amply demonstrated by the well-baby clinics, health roundups and dental inspections developed in full coöperation with medical and allied services. But just how the organization spanned the gap between child health care and endorsement of socialized medicine is shrouded in obscurity.

Published statements do little to dispel the uncertainty. The president of the P.T.A. Congress, in a letter recently addressed to a San Francisco newspaper, declared, "The Congress feels that the child has a right to medical and dental care and periodic check-ups on his general health until he is old enough to take care of himself." Such statements ring pleasantly in the ears of parents and the public, because everyone knows more medical attention would be good for every child. However, they ignore the fact that state medicine could not of itself produce more care for children or anyone else.

Again in the words of the P.T.A.: "Unless parents are *compelled by law* to give their children regular medical and dental care, vast numbers of childhood ailments, such as defective

sight, hearing, poor posture, low nutrition, bad tonsils, huge adenoids, defective teeth, rheumatic fever, TB tendencies and other ills, will continue to haunt the path of childhood!" There's something stupendous about the long list of ailments which compulsory health insurance is expected to cure or allay—but the old fallacy that bureaucratic medicine will mean perfect health for everyone is still apparent.

The P.T.A. adds a new note, though, which has some nice goose-stepping possibilities. *Compel the patient to go to the doctor!* Not even the most ingenious drafter of a health insurance bill as yet has tried that idea in any scheme. At worst, he has stopped with the attempt to cajole, coerce or bully medicine into providing regimented service, and to tax wage-earners for the privilege of standing in line in front of doctors' offices.

That any important civic organization could earnestly support compulsory health insurance, as the P.T.A. president maintains, solely for the reasons quoted, is evidence enough that medicine is perilously close to losing its battle to survive as a profession. The challenge is unmistakable.

EDITORIAL COMMENT †

NUTRITIONAL CONTROL OF CANCER

About ten years ago it was suggested by Brody¹ of the University of Missouri that the increased incidence of cancer during recent decades is due to the over-nutrition and under-exercise characteristic of modern civilization. Tannenbaum² confirmed this hypothesis. He found that in both man and animals there is a positive correlation between the incidence of cancer and body weight, and suggested that the establishment and maintenance of lower average weight levels is worthy of trial in the prevention of human cancer.

Experimental tests of this method were made by Rusch³ and Potter⁴ of the McCardle Memorial Laboratory for Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin. In a typical experiment 192 young adult mice received exactly the same amount of protein, salts and vitamins. Half of them were given a high carbohydrate supplement. The total diet of this group was 9.6 calories per day. This is 50 per cent more than is required to maintain weight. The other half of the mice were given only a sufficient supplement to maintain body weight, their total food intake being 6.4 calories per day. All mice received a standard minimal dose of cancer-producing ultraviolet light for 30 minutes every other day. By the end of 9 months 88 per cent of the high-caloric group had developed cancer. There was only a 2 per cent incidence of cancer in the low-caloric group.

The low-caloric mice received a great deal of

* A contributed article.

† This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comments by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California Medical Association to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.